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PART I

Punjab Government Notifications and Orders

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE

(HEALTH-IV BRANCH)

NOTIFICATION

The 6th May, 2024

No. HFW-HLH405A/5/2024-3H4/I/834953/2024.-Whereas, the Governor of Punjab is satisfied that the State of Punjab is threatened with the outbreaks of dangerous Epidemic Diseases namely Malaria, Dengue and Chikungunya and that the ordinary provisions of law for the time being in force are insufficient for the purpose.

Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 2 of the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897 (Central Act 3 of 1897), the Governor of Punjab is pleased to make the following regulations, namely:-

1. **Short title, Extent and Commencement:-**

1.1 These regulations may be called the Punjab Prevention and Control of Malaria, Dengue and Chikungunya Regulations, 2024.

1.2 These regulations shall be applicable to the entire State of Punjab.

1.3 They shall come into force on and with effect from the date of their publication in the Offical Gazette.

2. Definitions.- In these regulations unless the context otherwise requires-

2.1. "Act" means the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897 (Central Act 3 of 1897);

2.2. "Epidemic disease" mean Malaria, Dengue or Chikungunya.

2.3. "NVBDCP" means National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme.

3. Inspecting Officers.- For the purpose of these regulations, the following shall be the Inspecting officers;-

3.1. **Department of Health & Family Welfare:** Director Health Services, Deputy Director, Assistant Director and State Programme Officer, State Entomologist (NVBDCP) for the entire state of Punjab Civil Surgeon, Senior Medical Officer, District Epidemiologist, Assistant Malaria Officer, Multi-Purpose

Health Supervisor, Multi-Purpose Health Worker, Insect Collector, ASHA and Breeding Checker for their respective Districts.

3.2. **District Administration:** Deputy Commissioner, Additional Deputy Commissioner(s) and Sub-Divisional Magistrate(s) in their respective Districts.

3.3. **Department of Urban Local Bodies:** Commissioners of Municipal Corporations, Joint Commissioners of Municipal Corporations, Assistant Commissioners of Municipal Corporations, Executive Officers of Municipal Committee, Sanitary Inspectors in their respective Urban Local Body.

3.4. **Department of Rural Development and Panchayat:** Block Development and Panchayat Officers in their respective Community Development Blocks and Panchayat Secretary, Gram Rojgar Sevaks in their respective Gram Panchayats.

4. Powers of Inspecting Officers:-

4.1. The Inspecting Officers can enter any premises for the purpose of fever surveillance, blood sample collection for examination in case of suspected case of Malaria/Dengue/Chikungunya, treatment, breeding checking, anti-larval measures, spray of insecticides or fogging after informing the owner/ occupants of the premises.

4.2. The Inspecting Officer may also authorize other persons of his/her team to enter such premises along with him/her if required. The owner/occupants of the premises shall extend all cooperation & support to the Inspecting Officers at the time of Inspection and supply all such information as may be required by the Inspecting Officer.

4.3. The Inspecting Officer may instruct owner/occupants of the Premises not to keep any bottle, vessel, container, tyres etc in such a manner that it is likely to collect and retain water and may become a breeding site for the mosquitoes. Further provided that the Inspecting Officer shall either himself or through owner/occupants of the premises, direct the removal/disposal of any potential source of vector borne diseases such as containers (broken or unbroken), plastic bottles, unused tires etc.

4.4. The Inspecting Officer may order any premises to be sprayed with the insecticide or order treatment of water collection in the premises with the suitable larvicide as per the guidelines of Govt. Of India.

4.5. The Inspecting Officer may put any questions to the owner/occupants of the premises as he/she thinks fit in order to ascertain whether there is any reason to believe or suspect that such person is or may be suffering from Malaria/Dengue/Chikungunya and further carry out the investigations as required.

5. Additional Powers of Local Bodies (Urban & Rural):- The Inspecting Officers, as mentioned at sub-clause (3.3) & (3.4) of Clause 3, shall, in addition to the roles mentioned in Clause 4, carry out the door to door survey to check the breeding of 'Aedes mosquitoes starting from the month of April to November every year for the purpose of preventing the spread of Vector Borne Diseases as per Section 211 of the Punjab Municipal Act, 1911, Section 302 of the Punjab Municipal Corporation Act, 1976 and as per clause (k) of Section 35 of the Punjab Panchayati Raj Act, 1994 in their respective areas.

5.1 Further, if repeated breeding of Aedes Mosquito is found in any Building or Premises, the Inspecting Officer may impose challan to the owner/occupant of such premises under Section 219 of the Punjab Municipal Act, 1911 and Section 36 of the Punjab Panchayati Raj Act of 1994 in their respective areas.

6. General Provisions:- Any executing agencies/Residents/Individuals/Contractors who dig any burrow/pit/khadda in the course of execution of their work shall:-

6.1. Dig a burrow/pit/khadda in such a manner that no water stagnates in it.

6.2. Refill the burrow/pit/khadda after the work is completed in order to prevent accumulation of water which can lead to breeding of the mosquitoes.

7. Guidelines and Protocols for Malaria.-

7.1. All the Government Health Institutions, Private Hospitals/Clinics/Laboratories shall preferably do microscopic examination of blood slides for Malaria testing. Wherever, Rapid Diagnostic Test (RDT) kit has to be used, it shall be quality assured antigen detecting Bivalent RDT as per the technical specifications of NVBDCP **(guidelines available at www.ncvdbc.mohfw.giv.in)**

7.2. All the Government Health Institutions, Private Hospitals/Clinics/Laboratories shall immediately inform the Civil Surgeon of the concerned District, if a suspected case or confirmed case of Malaria is reported at their Health Facility/Laboratory.

7.3. The Private Hospitals/Clinics/Laboratories shall send the blood slide of the positive case to the District Malaria Laboratory (Office of Civil Surgeon) of their respective district within two (2) days for cross examination.

7.4. All the Government Health Institutions, Private Hospitals/Clinics shall ensure the complete Radical Treatment of the Malaria positive cases as per the Drug Policy of Malaria issued by the Government of India from time to time.

8. Guidelines and Protocols for Dengue and Chikungunya.-

8.1. All the Government Health Institutions, Private Hospitals/Clinics/Laboratories shall immediately inform the Civil Surgeon of the concerned district if a suspected case or confirmed case of Dengue or Chikungunya is reported at their Health Facility/Laboratory.

8.2. The blood samples of all the suspected cases of Dengue or Chikungunya tested positive by RDT kits shall be sent to the Sentinel Surveillance Hospital (SSH) in the Government Health Institution of the concerned district for the confirmatory test.

(Government of India has approved ELISA as the confirmatory test for Dengue and Chikungunya, guidelines available at www.ncvbdc.mohfw.gov.in).

8.3. All the Government Health Institutions, Private Hospitals/Clinics providing treatment to the patients of Dengue or Chikungunya shall abide by the Treatment protocols for the said diseases issued by the Government of India from time to time.

9. Planning strategy:- The District Task Force headed by the Deputy Commissioner shall plan and formulate a strategy to prevent and control the spread of Malaria, Dengue and Chikungunya in their respective districts. The Deputy Commissioner may co-opt any officer from any department as deemed fit in the District Task Force for this activity under these regulations.

10. Penalty:- Any person/institution/organization found violating any provisions of these regulations or orders issued under these regulations shall be deemed to have committed an offense punishable under Section 3 of the Epidemic Diseases Act 1897.

11. Bar on legal proceedings:- No suit or legal proceedings shall lie against any person for anything done or intended to be done in good faith under these regulations unless proven otherwise.

12. **Duration:-** These regulations shall remain valid for a period of two years from the date of their commencement.

AJOY SHARMA, IAS,
Principal Secretary to Government of Punjab,
Department of Health and Family Welfare

Chandigarh
The 27th March, 2024

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